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REDEEMER SPECIAL: THE FIRST EPISTLE

WARHAMMER 40,000 PRESENTS

THE REDEEMER™

PAT MILLS • DEBBIE GALLAGHER • WAYNE REYNOLDS

WARHAMMER MONTHLY

WHAT A GUY! Savagely violent, cruel and malevolent, fear follows in his majestic wake like a smell! Even his own servants are absolutely petrified of his foul temper. What a role model to the hordes of Chaos! It was about time this comic had a really nasty follower of the Ruinous Powers as a hero! And look, this whole issue is crammed with nothing but his deliciously vile exploits. Ha! I love the Redeemer! Where's that cursed Space Marine, Baneblade? I must gloat in this, my hour of glory!

I ALMOST GIVE UP, *Gutspew, I really do. Which particularly ronk corner of the Realm of Choos were you hiding in when the Dork Powers were handing out braincells? Did it ever occur to you to ask just who Klovis is 'redeeming' the heretics for? You great spiky-armoured fool! He's a devoted servant of the Emperor! The Redeemer's a good guy! He's on our side! Our side! Give me that comic!*

EH? DID A STRAY bolter shell wallop you in the head, you great Ultramarine idiot! The Redeemer's evil through and through! What about all that torturing, all those executions? All that scourging and purging? He's ours I tell you! Give that back!

FOOL! HE ONLY *purges people for their own good! He's on our side! Give!*

RUBBISH! He's evil! Snatch!

He's good! Thump! Ripppp!

The Redeemer's evil! Tear!

Good! Crunch! Rend!

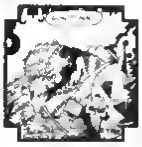
Evil! Whack! Whack! Gimme!

Good! Dakka dakka dakka! Grab!

THE REDEEMER, a story of heresy and damnation amongst the foul sinners of the Underhive!

✠ **Chapter One** – in which our beloved Klovis, the Redeemer, chances upon that foul brigand and sinner, The Caller, a vile Ratskin shaman of uncommon powers!

✠ **Chapter Two** – in which the Caller announces his intention to commit all manner of unspeakable nastiness upon the poor folk of Hive Primus!



✠ **Chapter Three** – in which entry into the reeking depths of the Underhive proves more arduous than anticipated for our blessed leader, Klovis.

✠ **Chapter Four** – in which all foul deviants and mutants learn that the only path is the Path of Redemption – or suffer the consequences!

Praise be to the Redeemer!!

GAMES WORKSHOP

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ASK BROTHER MALAKEV!

✠✠✠ LETTER OF THE MONTH ✠✠✠

• This magazine is great although you idiotic Chaos scum are not worthy to feed my Dragon, let alone star in a comic. I ask but one boon from you, Baneblade – that you destroy the accursed Dwarflord and Dark Elf stories and replace them with glorious High Elves. Death to the foul spawn of Chaos. May you find my blade keen!

-- Lord Eugene, High Elf General, Derbyshire

✠ Ooh, erm, well, thank you for your message. I'm a bit new to this letter-answering duty, but I'll see what I can do. Erm, death to the foul spawn, I suppose... Anyway, I have a special Robe of Purity to send you for writing such a nice friendly letter. Praise be!

• You lot are doing a good job but aren't you forgetting something? Bloodthirsters of course! I haven't seen a single Bloodthirster in all of the issues I've read. So in the next few issues I would like to see all of the Bloodthirsters you can cram into this comic!! And I'll send a melta/bolter combi-weapon to Gutspew, so he can finish off that accursed Baneblade. Death to the False Emperor!

-- Camila. R B.

✠ Yes, death to that nasty False Emperor, and praise be to the real one!

• Ahhh, Brother Lucanos, I hope this transmission finds you in good health. Fear not, my battle brother, salvation is at hand, for I,Commander Mathius of the Blood Angels, am currently on route to aid in your rescue. How would you like it if I sent via teleportation a hand flamer so you could purify that vile mutation with which you are incarcerated. It would be an entertaining thought to see the purifying flame cleanse his foul body, no?

-- Lord Commander Peter Matthew

• I've always felt you did not print enough Tyranid stories in Warhammer Monthly. But Pax Imperialis in Issue 14 was excellent. Any more Tyranid/cult stories planned? Any Battlefleet Gothic stories planned? I'm really looking forward to Bloodquest: Book 2 as Book 1 was brilliant. Keep printing such quality strips and you'll be sure to get my two quid every month. I bid you farewell.

-- John Kealy

P.S. Get rid of those annoying charecters that answer the letters, they suck!

✠ I quite agree! That Chaos Warrior is a very worrying fellow indeed! I'm certain my beloved Redeemer would want to have a few stiff words with him! That soldier chap seems a nice enough sort, though.

• G'day Black Library! I love your website and your products. I'm a dedicated Warhammer Monthly collector and look forward to each issue, especially Daemonfuge. Speaking of which, will we be getting book 2 anytime in the future? My main concern is why in Australia are we one issue behind the UK? I like talking about the strips in WHM online but I am always behind on the latest stuff. I have to turn my eyes away from anything that I have not read so the surprise is not spoiled. Another reason is that we are behind when it comes to competitions. The UK have one month to get in entries before before we even see what the competition is. I'm not having a whinge, I'm just concerned for Oz readers. Bya for now.

-- Aaron Cains, Australia, via email

P.S. I'm really looking forward to having a model of Inquisitor Hand.

✠ An Inquisitor! Goobness me! Aren't the real Inquisitors scary enough, let alone models of them! And you say your comic is late! I can only think that the fine fellows who distribute it in your land are too busy reading all the great stories in it to send it out to you! Perhaps I should ask my beloved master to castigate them most severely!

• I have every copy of your magazine since you started and I think it is the best comic in the whole universe. My faveurite story is Darkblade, but I also like Bloodquest and Ravenwing for the way it is drawn. Please do a miniature for Malus Darkblade and Cloten. I love the strip Dedication in issue 13, even though it is short. I have also noticed that every month the comic gets thicker which I am very glad about. Keep up the good work.

-- Yin Pang Yeung, Manchester

• Greetings Harlequin guardians of all Chaos lore. A message for Chaos Farseer Karranie Straan. BURN WITCH, BURN! You and all your hell spawned people are doomed! Your twisted craftworld will fall beneath the righteous fury of Farseer Ramadam M'Hark and the warriors of the Tal D'Kan craftworld! Tremble now. Your doom stalks you across the stars!

I also have a partial solution to McLemon's problem about characters in the stories. I have found a nemesis for Darkblade. If you remember, way back in issue 5 Malus recovers the dagger of Torxus, killing all but one of the raiding party who had recovered it. The one who was not killed got his face smashed in with a spiky gauntlet (ouch!). That guy would be great as a nemesis for the Soulless One. After all, what could be worse for an elf than to have his fair complexion reined by a spiky gauntlet?

-- Farseer Ramadan M'Hark

✠ What an unpleasant fellow! I feel a bit queasy now. I'm going to find a quiet corner and read some inspirational verses in praise of the Redeemer to calm me down.

✠ ✠ ✠

✠ You can send all your messages of hope and devotion to us at:

**Warhammer Monthly,
Games Workshop Ltd,
Willow Road, Lenton,
Nottingham, NG7 2WS,
UK**

Or via the power of prayer:

publishing@games-workshop.co.uk

The best letter gets a cool t-shirt!

In the name of the eternal Emperor I write of the deeds of The Redeemer. Klovis of the noble house of Cawdor and of his great work ridding Necromunda of weakness and deviation, of filth and abomination
He it was who led us from Hive Primus to spread the word of redemption amongst the outcasts of the Ash Wastes
Toxic was that desolation, yet he feared not to plunge himself into the poisoned realm... and the mutants and scavvies and ratskins fled before him... for they feared his words of righteousness...
THE REDEEMER
SCRIPT PAT MILLS & DEBBIE GALLAGHER
ART WAYNE REYNOLDS • LETTERS GORDON ROBSON
IF IT DOESN'T HURT IT DOESN'T COUNT!

In The Ash Wastes we purged some ratskin renegades for crimes too foul for I, Deacon Malakev, to describe (lest it pollute the mind of the reader)
BUT ALL WE DID WAS RUN AWAY!
A MAN'S FLIGHT IS IN ITSELF SUFFICIENT REASON FOR THE PRESUMPTION OF HIS GUILT
AND, BY SHORTENING YOUR LIFE, I AM SAVING YOU FROM COMMITTING MORE SINS AND THUS RECEIVING EVEN GREATER PUNISHMENT
BUT IF YOU ARE INNOCENT, ACCEPT YOUR FATE WITH RESIGNATION
AND THANK ME FOR REWARDING YOU WITH A MARTYR'S CROWN
YOU ARE SICK IN THE HEAD, HIVE WARRIOR! YOUR SPIRIT WALKS A CROOKED PATH!
LISTEN TO HIS VILE INSULTS! YOU CAN DO NO MORE FOR HIM, MY LORD, SINCE HE HAS ABUSED YOUR GOODNESS
I CALL ON THE GREAT RAT SPIRIT TO AVENGE MY DEATH AND THE PAIN OF MY PEOPLE!
RRRRRIPP!

I HEAR YOU, MY PEOPLE ! I AM THE CALLER, SHAMAN OF SHAMANS, VOICE OF THE RAT NATION, SON OF THE BLOODMARE !
THROUGH MY BONES THROUGH MY BLOOD I LEAD THE REVOLT AGAINST THE SCUM OF THE SPIRE, THE DOGS OF THE EMPEROR !
BLASPHEMY!
I EAT THE RATS AND IMBIBE THE SPIRIT OF THE RAT GOD
SO WE MAY RECLAIM OUR HERITAGE AND OUR WORLD !
PULPITEK ! AUTO CANNONS ON !

kik
kik
MY LORD, THEY'RE JAMMED!
CREAK!
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE...
SCOURGE.
...AND PURGE!
NOT!
PURE SOLE

THE RAT NATION'S TIME HAS COME!
YOUR TIME HAS COME, THAT MUCH I PROMISE YOU...
LOATHSOME VERMIN! YOU CANNOT WITHSTAND THE SWORD OF PERSECUTION!
AND YOU CANNOT WITHSTAND...
THE POWER OF THE BLOODMARE STONE!

THE POWER OF THE ANCIENT ONE! IT SHALL SWEEP ME FROM HIVE TO HIVE, FUELLING THE FLAME OF REVOLT ACROSS NECROMUNDA!
AND INCINERATE YOUR HOME - HIVE PRIMUS!
SPEAKING OF FIRE, VERMIN
SKREEEEE!
SOON!
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT AND THE BEFITTING DEATH THAT AWAITS YOU - IN TORMENT!

Pondering on the Collier and his mysterious stone, the Redeemer ordered an inspection of the weapons of the faithful
for the jamming of the auto cannon had disturbed him greatly
SSSSSSS
YOUR MELTA GUN IS IN SHOCKING CONDITION AND SO IS YOUR EVISCERATOR
NO OTHER MAN HAS EQUIPMENT IN SUCH A BAD STATE AS YOURS!
FWOOSH!
FORGIVE ME, MY LORD! FORGIVE ME
VRRR!
I AM THE MOST FORGIVING OF MEN
BUT STANDARDS MUST BE MAINTAINED!
TO BE CONTINUED...

"Praise Be!"
an interview with Wayne Reynolds

It's Wayne Reynolds's talented hands which bring you all of the artwork in The Redeemer. Along with the preview episode in WHM #16, this is Wayne's very first strip for Warhammer Monthly, though he has already provided several splendid covers for earlier issues, including a pair of Darkblade portraits. Wayne lives in Leeds, where he spends his time painting, gaming, making models and, erm, decapitating rats. Nice guy! Well, we like him, though we suspect the Redeemer might have a few things to say to him.

Anyway, when Wayne popped down to the Black Library to deliver yet more of his superb artwork, we grabbed him, wrapped him in chains and subjected him to the Number Eleven Torture Device until he told all about his art and influences!

Warhammer Monthly: *I know it's the obvious first question, but how did you first get into drawing comics?*

Wayne Reynolds: I was always a comic reader as a kid; I used to read Marvel and DC. But more than that, I used to copy pages out of the comics as drawings, trying to get them exactly the same.

WHM: *Were they any good?*

WR: I was pleased with them at the time, but they were rubbish really!

But gradually I did begin to suss out what comic art was about, and I started not needing to copy any more. I was drawing all the time, I mean *all the time*, and eventually I started to develop my own style.

WHM: *Was it just comics inspiring you back then?*

WR: No, not really, it was any SF or Fantasy. I used to draw in my school exercise books, whole strips. Then I'd have to ask for a new book. The teachers eventually cottoned on and weren't too pleased! I did get lots of encouragement from my art teacher though.

Later, at college I don't think the lecturers thought comic art was 'proper' art. They'd make us go out into the woods, give us mud and sticks as our art materials and tell us to 'draw the river'! I hated it. How can you draw a river with just mud and sticks?

WHM: *Did you ever think you could make a living at being an artist?*

WR: I always wanted to but I didn't know how. To be honest, I never really thought I was good enough. I'm my own worst critic. I never like my own work when it's finished. I do a picture and then six months on I hate it, I really loathe it.

Anyhow, after college I got a job painting pub signs, for slave wages. My most famous achievement was painting the sign for the Wool Pack pub in Emmerdale. You can't see it on TV anymore, because they've got a new sign up now, but if you looked at the original one you'd see that I'd put a naked woman in the background. I was always sticking in things like that – I used to include Daleks in paintings of Victorian Market scenes. Nobody ever noticed!

After that I did some freelance work for fantasy games companies like Chaosium and Iron Crown. I did the art for the Pagan Shores book for Pendragon and some Rolemaster stuff, which was fun.

WHM: *So you're into fantasy roleplaying games then?*

WR: In a big way. I play about once a week, with Ralph Horsley *[ACE INFERNO CUTAWAY DIAGRAM ARTIST]*.

WHM: *When the WHM editors first met you, you were working for a computer game company?*

WR: Yeah, I started doing some concept sketches for a superhero game, and that became a full time job for a while, before I went freelance.

WHM: *What was your first published strip?*

WR: I did three episodes of Slaine for 2000 AD last year. That was my first published strip. It came about after

meeting Pat Mills at a comics convention. A friend of mine was talking to Pat about developing an online comic strip. He asked if I'd like to meet Pat and show him my portfolio. So I did, he liked it and said I'd be great drawing Slaine. He was really enthusiastic. I did some demo pieces and eventually got the job.

WHM: *So you're a relative newcomer to comics then? We thought you'd been around for years!*

WR: Nah. The Redeemer is only my second strip, after Slaine. Both written by Pat Mills. Which is great, because as a kid I... *[PAUSE AS HE TRIES IN VAIN TO STOP HIMSELF CONFESSING THIS NEXT BIT]* ...used to run around playing Cursed Earth games with sticks. You know, as guns.

WHM: *Ahem.*

WR: Anyway, The Cursed Earth was written by Pat. I do like his writing. The very dark sense of humour. Dark and nasty is good. The Redeemer is a perfect example of Pat's style. He's a very nasty man, beyond an anti-hero. If you met him you'd definitely leg it. It would save you, but you'd be running for your life...

WHM: *If you could choose any comic character to draw who would it be?*

WR: Batman. He's so cool. Written by Frank Miller or even better, Pat Mills. He's a bit dark and nasty.

WHM: *Which other artists do you rate?*

WR: I like a lot of people's stuff. Cam Kennedy is excellent. And I like Mike Mignola's stuff.

WHM: *Do you like American-style comics then?*

WR: There nothing wrong with them, but I don't think they're my style. Comics like Image are very slick. British comic artists have a real character and style to them.

Take Superman, for instance. I hate Superman. He makes me go Grrr! He's just too perfect, but there is something a little two dimensional about him. He's invulnerable, he can fly, he's got no flaws. I like characters with flaws. I did buy the story where he died, just to make sure he was gone – but they brought him back to life again! Drat!

WHM: *The Slaine strip was in colour, but the Redeemer is in black and white. Which do you prefer?*

WR: I'd say black and white actually. It's moody, with less variables. You rely more on lighting effects. And to be truthful, for an artist, it's just easier...

WHM: *Many artists also seem to want to write their own strips. Do you harbour any literary ambitions?*

WR: Let's say I'm yet to be tested. I think I could, but I don't think I will, if you see what I mean. If I did write something, it would probably be about Celtic or Greek mythology. I like my ancient history.

WHM: *Let's get back to the gaming stuff. Were you a Warhammer 40K and Necromunda fan before you started drawing the Redeemer?*

WR: Oh yes. I've got an Eldar army. I really like the sleek exotic look of the Eldar. Having said that I also have an Ork army, purely because they are so much fun to play. And I have a Redemptionist gang...

WHM: *Surprise, surprise!*

WR: ...but I had them before the Redeemer came along. My wife has an Escher gang, she identifies with them for some reason. I'm currently painting some Ratskins and converting myself a Pulpitek, which is taking quite a while.

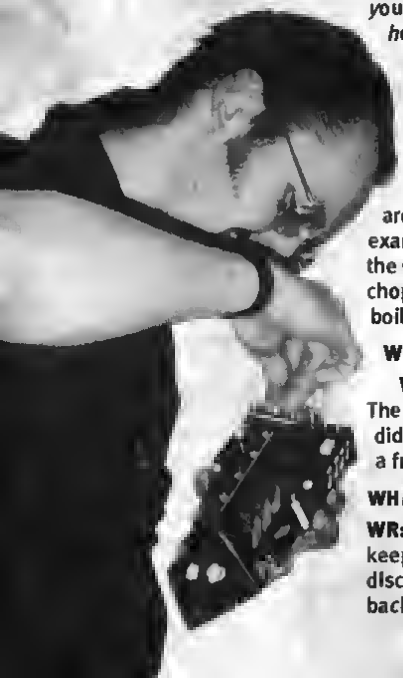
A limited edition model of the Redeemer, like the Kal Jerico and Leonatos, would be excellent. With a model of his toady sidekick Malakev of course. Malakev is excellent, isn't he, truly vile. He's such a

little git, with a face you could constantly slap and never get bored.

I must admit I don't actually get to play as often as I would like, but I probable enjoy painting more than playing anyway. Often, if I have had a hard day working on a big painting or some complicated panels, I find it helps me to unwind, just sitting and painting some miniatures.

WHM: *A little bird tells us you actually used to work for Games Workshop?*

WR: Yes, many years ago. I was Saturday boy in the Leeds store for a while.



WHM: *Knowing the Necromunda background so well must have helped when drawing the Redeemer?*

WR: Definitely. It's great to draw stuff you like. I love it, and I get paid for it, which makes me lucky I guess.

WHM: *We can't help but notice that the strip's full of lots of extra little visual jokes as well.*

WR: They're just a little added extra for the readers, if they can spot them. Just little asides from the main action, when the Redeemer's fighting something for instance.

WHM: *It's traditional at this point for us to ask what advice you would give others artists hoping to get into comics?*

WR: Keep practising, and don't go down to the river with sticks and mud! You just have to keep drawing. And not just comic strips; you can draw what is around you as well. For example, for the big rat skull on the Caller's head-dress, I chopped the head off a rat, boiled it and drew the skull.

WHM: *Erm, really? Grass!*

WR: What's the problem? The rat was already dead, I didn't kill it or anything. It was a friend's pet that died.

WHM: *[Stunned silence.]*

WR: Anyway... you need to keep going and not get discouraged. You will get set-backs, but you must just keep trying. If you're good enough you'll get somewhere! Just remember that the comics industry is very competitive. There just aren't enough comics any more, so there is not much space for new guys. But if you're good you'll come through.

WHM: *Will you be at Games Day this year?*

WR: Oh yeah, and the Black Library Open Day. Games Day is a great atmosphere, the enthusiasm is so good. Thousands of people, excited about playing games, reading the comic, whatever, just enjoying what they do. It's a nice feeling to be caught up in. It gets the imaginative wheels turning. You're not just sitting in front of TV. People are doing something – painting, modelling, meeting up with friends to play games, reading the background. That's the real appeal I guess.

Having said that, signing all those autographs is a bit strange. It's good that people like my artwork, but I don't think I'd like to be idolised. Not that I am really, but still it's a bit scary, a bit creepy.

WHM: *Oh dear. We suspect you're going to be fending off the fans for many years to come! Praise be indeed!*

Interview by Marc Gascoigne & Warwick Kinrade

CHAPTER TWO
Soon after, we headed for our base in the Ash Wastes... two weeks journey from Hive Primus
Those who call our beloved Redeemer a crazed fanatic would do well to see his good works here
REPEAT AFTER ME "WE DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED"
WE DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED
Obey!
TRESPASSERS WILL BE PERSECUTED
NO SALISMEN
He did more than scourge the heretics. He taught the Ratskins he had rescued from a life of sin in the Underhive
ALL PRAISE TO THE REDEEMER!
ALL PRAISE TO THE REDEEMER!
EXCELLENT WORK, BRUDE. YOU ARE SHOWING THEM THE WAYS OF THE REDEMPTION
I OWE IT ALL TO YOU, MY LORD. YOU MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY

Obey!
AAARGH!
THE CALLER! HE'S FOLLOWED US HERE!
PERCEPTIVE AS EVER, MALAKEV
DID I NOT SAY I WOULD RETURN EMPEROR'S LACKEY
CLEARLY YOU DESIRE PURGING BLASPHEMER. A DESIRE I WILL BE HAPPY TO FULFIL
IN YOUR DREAMINGS. AND NOW, LET ME SHOW YOU MINE!
RISE UP, RATSKINS! RETURN TO THE WAYS OF YOUR ANCESTORS THROUGH THE POWER OF THE EYE OF THE BLOODMARE!

WE HAVE BEEN ASLEEP, BUT NO LONGER
THE REDEEMER IS BAD! DEATH TO THE REDEEMER!
PUNISH THE REDEEMER! PUNISH THE REDEEMER!
Klovis had rescued the Ratskins from heresy and this was how they repaid him.
Yet it was more in sorrow, rather than anger, that he applied the Mortifier to their traitorous bodies.

FEEL THE WRATH OF THE REDEMPTION!
TEK!
SCOURGE AND PURGE!
K-CHAK!
And this time, praise be, the cannons did not fail!
GOON, SAY SOMETHING CLEVER NOW
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
BUDDA!
K-BANG!

For a moment, even the Redeemer was stunned, for the blow was a grievous one
SNAPTHROAT! NOSECRACK! EYEPOP! FEED!
SQUEEEG!
THWACK!
SPLITCH!
SQUEEEEEEEE!

WHAT MANNER OF MAN ARE YOU ?
I AM THE REDEEMER!
RIGHT ARM OF THE EMPEROR INSTRUMENT OF HIS VENGEANCE AND
HE'S VANISHED MY LORD
TELEPORTED OBVIOUSLY HIS STONE HAS CONSIDERABLE POWERS, WHICH I WILL NEED TO DISCUSS WITH OUR ERRANT RATSKINS
After they were subdued
NOTHING WILL MAKE ME SPEAK ! THE CALLER HAS GIVEN US BACK OUR SPIRIT ! DO YOUR WORST !
IF YOU INSIST MALAKEV, FETCH THE "LIBER EXCRUCIATUS".

FOR YOUR ENLIGHTENMENT, BRUDE, THIS IS MY COLLECTION OF AIDS TO REPENTANCE
HAH! I FEAR IT NOT!
Hmm PRIDE TREACHERY INGRATITUDE YES, CLEARLY A CASE FOR AID NUMBER 26. PREPARE THE NOSTRIL PIPES AND THE EARPLUGS
EARPLUGS?
THEY'RE FOR ME, LEST YOUR SCREAMS DISTRACT ME FROM MY HOLY WORK
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING! JUST DON'T TORTURE ME!
THE BLOODMARE STONE IS THE EYE OF ONE OF THE PREHISTORIC NECROMUNDAN SPIDERS!
FROM HIS DEN IN THE UNDERWORLD OF HIVE PRIMUS, THE CALLER WILL USE HER MAGIC TO OVERTHROW THE SPIRE ALL SPIRES THROUGHOUT NECROMUNDA!
ADMIRABLE BRUDE THIS WILL GO A GREAT WAY TOWARDS YOUR REDEMPTION... IT IS SAID THAT IT IS MORE MERCIFUL TO TORTURE THE MIND THAN BRUISE THE BODY HOWEVER
I STILL PREFER TO DO BOTH!
JUST TO BE SURE
AND AFTERWARDS, WE SHALL COMMENCE THE BLOODMARE CRUSADE TO PUT DOWN THIS HERESY!

NECROMUNDA

HIVE PRIMUS

Necromunda is a planet decimated by tens of thousands of years of industrial pollution. It is an ecological disaster of biblical proportions. The planet's surface is covered by deserts of ash, the by products spewed out by factory chimneys. The rivers have become toxic acid sludge flows, the clouds a poisonous smog of chemicals which block out the sun. Any native life that once existed on the planet is long dead, all flora and fauna were destroyed eons ago. No one remembers what Necromunda was once like.

Despite this Necromunda still has a massive population of untold billions. It is a Hive World, where the population huddle in towering man made structures, Hive Cities many miles in height.

No one knows how old the Hives of Necromunda are. Their very size is testament to many thousands of years of growth, sprawling layer on layer, climbing ever higher above the planet's polluted surface. The deepest and oldest layers now lie far underground, buried by the corrosive ash that lies around the Hives' base. These parts of the Hives were abandoned long ago and are now dark and dangerous places.

Imperial House NELMAWR

From ground level, the man-made mountains rise ever more sleepily upwards through the phosphorescent layer of undercloud, a pall of acid dust which shrouds the entire surface of Necromunda. The largest of the Hive Cities is Hive Primus.

It is home to teeming millions of souls, from the rich noble clans of the gleaming Spire, living in luxury above the smog layer, to the poorest Guild factory labourer of the Hive City, who will live and die without ever seeing Necromunda's sky, to the dangerous gangs and outlaws hiding in the depths of the Underhive.

Lower yet is the Hive Bottom. Its denizens are the spawn of darkness and pollution, skulking amongst the radioactive effluents of the Sump.

All this is ruled over by the unimaginable wealthy Imperial Governor, Lord Helmawr, whose coffers are filled to bursting by Necromunda's industries. Life in the Hive City is harsh for most citizens. Law and order are maintained by the powerful Merchant Guilders. Amongst the Badzones of the Underhive, though, the only laws are those enforced at the point of a gun. The worst scum wind up here, driven out for real or imagined crimes by the violent gangs or vengeful Guilders. The Underhive is home to mutants, Plague Zombies, Scavvies and feral tribes of Ratskins that populate the reeking acidic marshes and toxic ash wastes. Illegal trade posts and bandit strongholds are scattered throughout the Badzones amongst the [illegible]

[illegible] dregs of the Underhive [illegible] killing [illegible] very madness [illegible] alone [illegible] weak to survive.

THE SPIRE

Noble Houses

GRIEM
ULANTI
TY
RAN LO
CATALLUS
KO'IRON

The Well

Poisonous cloud

THE HIVE CITY

Houses of the Hive City

CAWDOR
ESCHER
GOLIATH
VAN SAAR
ORLOCK
DELAQUE

Surface level

The Underhive

Hive Bottom

Hive Bottom

The Sump

10 miles

THE REDEMPTIONIST CRUSADE

"Kill them all, the Emperor will know his own."

— The Arch Zealot

IN THE CRAMPED, squalid conditions of the Hive City, many secretive religious cults find new converts amongst the down-trodden workers and labourers. One of these is the dangerously fanatical Cult of the Redemption.

FOR THE Redemptionists the whole of creation is riven with vile corruption that can only be cleansed through fire, blood and rigid faith. The Redemptionists worship the Emperor of Mankind as the supreme being whose very existence proves that mankind's manifest destiny is to rule the galaxy. They believe mankind has fallen from the path of righteousness decreed by the Emperor, and that the sins of mankind will drown the human race in filth and depravity, and, if not halted, lead to mankind's ultimate destruction.

ON STREET corners, priests rally the masses with their doctrine of hatred and intolerance. They lead their followers in prayers calling for the Emperor's wrath to descend upon the galaxy and purge it of all aliens and mutants. Their insane xenophobic zeal knows no limits.

THE WORST sinners of all are mutants and witches, the spawn of evil, whose very existence is an affront to the Emperor's holiness. The second worst are the heretics, who tolerate sin and refuse to heed the preachings of the Redemption. The Redemptionists believe that the Noble Houses and the Guilders are riddled with corrupt sinners too, and because of this they have little support in the Spire.

THE REDEMPTIONISTS wage a constant war against the vile sinners of the Underhive. Their well-armed crusades are led by the most fanatical brethren, who seek to cleanse the Underhive in the holy fire of battle. Due to a number of bloody conflicts, mass witch hunts and public burnings of otherwise innocent citizens, the Guilders have declared the Redemptionist to be outlaws. Nowadays many Redemptionist priests, zealots and their fanatical followers actually have a price on their heads. ✠

CHAPTER THREE
A week later... Brude had responded well to the ways of the redemption...
HOW'S THE NEW NOSE?
ITHREEEEALLY HURTTHHH
PENITENT
WELL, YES, IT WOULD BUT THE PAIN HELPED. YOU RECALLED THE LOCATION OF "SINK HOLE PASS" A SHORT CUT TO THE UNDERHIVE OF WHICH WE WERE PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE
YETTHHH
Soon after, we approached The Pass...
From here, vehicles were lowered by cranes, but the shaft was controlled by a mutant gang.
TELL STITCH! MONEY'S COMING!
REDEMPTION SCUM!
MUTANT SCUM!

"POSSE DEVIATUS" ! THEY FLAUNT THEIR SINS SO BLATANTLY! TRULY THEY ARE IN NEED OF REDEMPTION !
MY LORD ! I THINK THE ARCH SINNER APPROACHES
If you Kill for Money... If you Kill for PleASure.. If you do both. WelcoMe Posse deViAtus
GOIN' DOWN ?
STOP! RIGHT NOW!
HOW.. HOW MUCH ?
100% OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT
OKAY 90% YOU HARD MAN HUR HUR HUR !
I HAVEN'T TRAVELLED THE ASH WASTES TO BE INSULTED BY A MUTANT TAX COLLECTOR !
I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN BE DISGRACED BY PAYING !
THERE IS ANOTHER WAY. YOU'LL LIKE IT. CRANE EACH CHAIN SWORD EACH FIGHT TO THE DEATH
WINNER TAKES ALL !
ACCEPTED
THOUGHT YOU WOULD
I LIKE A MAN WHO TAKES HIS VIOLENCE SERIOUSLY

Before the duel began, the Redeemer spent a moment in prayer to the Emperor
DEAR LORD. MAKE ME DIE OR GIVE ME THE GRACE TO CONQUER THIS GANG OF SINNERS AND RENDER MYSELF ITS MASTER
HELP ME MASSACRE THIS DAY IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR!
VERY WELL... LET THE DUEL BEGIN
MALAKEV!
YES, MY LORD?
LOWER ME INTO THE PIT!
A MAN IS LIKE AN ASH WEED TUMBLING THIS WAY AND THAT WITH NOWHERE TO GO, UNLESS HE HAS A CAUSE! AND WHAT GREATER NOBLER CAUSE THAN TO CLEANSE NECROMUNDA OF SINNERS LIKE YOU!
I'LL REMEMBER TO WRITE THAT ON YOUR TOMB STONE!
Cube Hive
2 KM
IMPERIAL
PITY YOU'VE GOT TO DIE REDEEMER. YOU'RE MY KIND OF MANIAC!
DO NOT COMPARE YOURSELF WITH ME, SCUM! I AM A CRUSADER ON A HOLY CAUSE!

HEY, HARD MAN ! YOUR HEAD'S ON FIRE !
IDIOT MUTANT ! YOU DARE TO INSULT MY CROWN OF ALL CLEANSING FIRE ?!
I AM AFLAME WITH ZEAL FOR THE FAITH !
I LIKE YOUR STYLE ! LAST TIME I MET A PSYCHO LIKE YOU I ATE HIM !
BLASPHEMER ! CANNIBAL ! REJOICE THAT I CLEANSE YOU WITH THE SWORD OF REDEMPTION !
THAT YOUR SINFUL EXISTENCE WILL BE SNUFFED OUT !
AAHHH ! LUCKY BLOW !

NOW GET THIS STITCHED!
YOU DISPLAY A COURAGE I ATTRIBUTE TO THE OBSTINANCY OF YOUR CRIMES, MUTANT!
THAT OR PLAIN STUPIDITY! EITHER WAY, IT'S TIME YOU WERE CLEANSED

OOOPS! SORRY, MY LORD!
UUUGH!
KRAK!
MAAAAALAKEV! YOU...!
YEAH, I'M JUST ONE DUMB MUTANT HUR HUR HUR!
WHAT HAVE I DONE? IF I HAVE KILLED MY BELOVED LORD, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
AND IF HE LIVES— NEITHER WILL HE!
GROVEL CREEPERS
HUR, HUR! IT WOULD BE REALLY DESPICABLE TO KILL A DEFENCELESS MAN HANGING FROM A ROCK...!
SPLENDID!

TIME FOR A MANICURE, HARD MAN!
I THINK NOT, DEVIANT!
SCOURGE AND PURGE!
GGGAAAAAAAAHH!
SKITCH!
NOW QUICKLY! IN THE FEW REMAINING SECONDS OF LIFE LEFT TO YOU, WILL YOU PRAY TO THE EMPEROR FOR FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR SINS?
MMMMMMMMMM!
OH WELL
AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE POSSE...
AS YOU SAID, MUTANT... WINNER TAKES ALL!

CHAPTER FOUR
UR MALAKEV! MY HOLY WORK AWAITS!
STITCH IS DEAD!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE WAS THE BEST!
WAS
ZEALOTS ATTACK!
CLEANSE THIS NEST OF DEVIANTS
VRRRMM!

BOOM!
KYLAM!
BLAM!
BUDDA! BUDDA! BUDDA!
mine eyes have seen the glory
of the Redeemer our Lord!
He will smite the filthy mutant,
He will crush the deviant horde!
We will be his shield and armour!
we will be his flaming sword,
As we go marching on!
Glory, glory, The Redeemer!
Glory, glory, The Redeemer!
Glory, gl The Redeemer!
BLAM!
BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM!
AS I GO PURGING ON!

KA-BOOM!
PURGE YOU!
DAKKA! DAKKA! DAKKA!
AARRRGH!
MALAKEV, SWING ME UP THERE! AND DON'T FAIL ME THIS TIME
ONCE WAS BAD ENOUGH FOR YOU. TWICE WILL BE INDESCRIBABLE!
YES MASTER! YES, MASTER!

YOU'RE A MADMAN!
AYE, MAD WITH ZEAL
FOR REDEMPTION!
MY LORD! THE MUTANTS HAVE SURRENDERED! THE FORT IS OURS! PRAISE BE TO THE EMPEROR!
EXCELLENT. THEY HAVE DELAYED US LONG ENOUGH FROM FINDING THE CALLER, AND CRUSHING HIS RATSKIN REBELLION

The survivors were gathered on the edge of the pit
...
YOUR SINS ARE SO GRIEVOUS, THAT- MUCH AS I WOULD LIKE TO - I CANNOT OVERLOOK THEM
YOU WILL SUFFER THE PUNISHMENT OF DECIMATION!
ONE!
ARRRRGGH!
TWO!
THREE!
ER... REDEEMER
I HATE TO QUESTION YOUR JUDGEMENT, BUT SURELY DECIMATION MEANS ONLY ONE IS KILLED AND NINE SURVIVE?
NOT THE WAY I DO IT...
FOUR!
Later, in his mercy, he spared the tenth mutant
Repent
I have been forgiven by the Redeemer
GO OUT INTO THE ASH WASTES AND SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!

ABOUT MY EARLIER FAILURE, MY LORD I WOULD LIKE TO DO PENANCE
MAY I SUGGEST A SUITABLE TORTURE FOR MYSELF FROM THE LIBER EXCRUCIATUS ?
YOU CERTAINLY MAY, MALAKEV
BUT I'M RATHER BUSY RIGHT NOW...WHY DON'T WE CHOOSE ONE TOGETHER LATER
MEANWHILE, THE MENTAL ANGUISH YOU WILL SUFFER SHOULD KEEP YOU GOING
OH, THANK YOU, MY LORD! THANK YOU!
LOWER AWAY!
WE GO NOW INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE UNDERHIVE...
2 km
TO FIND THE BLOODMARE STONE AND ITS VERMINOUS KEEPER - THE CALLER!

"AND PRACTICE ALL THE TORTURES OF THE LIBER EXCRUCIATUS UPON HIM!"
"THE RAT-EATER CAN HIDE IN HIS CAGE NO LONGER!"
TO BE CONTINUED...